

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/698,810

Applicant(s)

NOMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Ryan J Hesselline

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed December 17, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5,6,8-14 and 16-39.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 December 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

JINGGEWU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments on page 10, second and third paragraphs, filed December 17, 2004, with respect to Figures 9-22 and claim 17 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objection to the drawings and the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection of claim 17 has been withdrawn.
2. Applicant's arguments on pages 10 and 11, filed December 17, 2004, with respect to claims 5-29 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The prior art rejections of claims 5-29 have been withdrawn.
3. The rejections of claims 7 and 15 are rendered moot by applicant's cancellation of those claims.

Drawings

4. The drawings were received on December 17, 2004. These drawings are acceptable.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 5, 6, 8-14 and 16-39 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: independent claims 5, 11, 19, 24, 26, 28-30 and 35 recite limitations not found in the prior art of record. For example, claims 5, 11, 19, 24 and 30 recite processing an image obtained by a color camera by calibrating the image using a parameter unique to the color camera that is calculated from data of an image of a color chart for calibration, which contains white, pink and red picked up by the color camera. Claims 26, 28, 29 and 35 recite that a chromaticity conversion coefficient is calculated

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from data of an image of a color chart for calibration, which includes white, pink and red picked up by the color camera.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. USPN 6,175,092 to Binette et al. discloses a method and apparatus for classifying batches of wood chips including a calibration procedure using a color chart.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan J Hesseltine whose telephone number is 571-272-7419. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au can be reached on 571-272-7414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

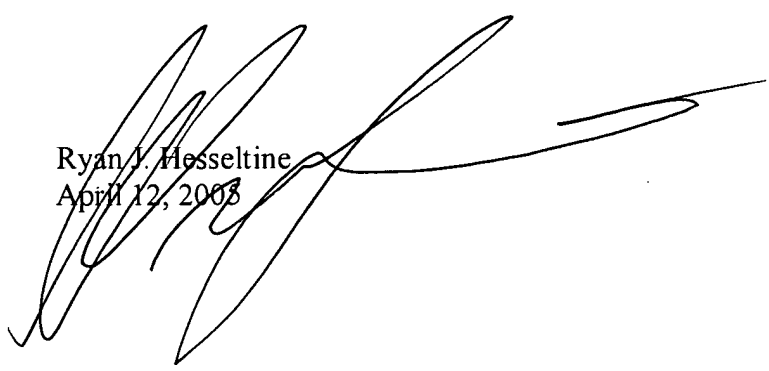
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Ryan J. Hesseltine
April 12, 2008

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right, positioned over the typed name and date.